

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 19, 2005. Claims 1, 5 to 8, 12 to 15, 19 to 22 and 26 to 36 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 to 31, 35 and 36, all of which are independent, have been amended.

Claims 1, 5 to 8, 12 to 15, 19 to 22, and 26 to 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action contends that there is no disclosure in the specification of displaying a symbol indicating a non-updating state and a non-reception state, causing the display of a symbol corresponding to the non-updating state, and causing the display of no symbol corresponding to the non-reception state. Furthermore, the Office Action suggests that Figures 7 and 15 correspond to an updating state only. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to the non-updating state, one embodiment of the present invention is at least described with reference to Figure 15. Contrary to the Office Action's characterization, Figure 15 is seen to show an icon in two states: 1) a non-flashed state, which is seen to correspond to a non-updating state; and 2) a flashed state, which is seen to correspond to an updating state. (See page 28, lines 10 to 17; page 42, lines 14 to 18 of the specification). In addition, the flowchart of FIG. 16 and its corresponding text are seen to show a process for causing the display of the icon in the non-updating state.

Regarding the non-reception state, reference to this state has been removed from the claims, without conceding the correctness of the rejection.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112, first paragraph, rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 26, 28 to 32 and 34 to 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,271,805 (Yonezawa) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,424,772 (Aoki); and Claims 6, 13, 20, 27 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yonezawa and Aoki and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,621,429 (Yamaashi). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to the reception and display of frame images from a communication terminal. In one feature of the present invention, a symbol indicating an update state of the received frame images is displayed. The update state includes at least two states: an updating state; and a non-updating state. Specifically, the symbol is displayed in a first condition corresponding to the updating state when a currently displayed frame image is updated by a next frame image. The symbol is displayed in a second condition corresponding to the non-updating state when the currently displayed frame image is not updated by a next frame image. In this way, a user can more quickly assess when a currently displayed frame image is updated by a next frame image. This feature can be helpful, for example, in identifying disruptions of frame image reception from communication terminals while the communication terminals are operating.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 as amended is directed to a communication apparatus which includes a reception unit for receiving frame images generated from a plurality of communication terminals, and an output unit for outputting the frame images received by said reception unit in order to display the frame

images on a display unit as multiple image displays. The communication apparatus also includes a notification unit for causing the display unit to display a symbol indicating an update state of the received frame images. The update state includes at least an updating state and a non-updating state. The symbol is displayed on a predetermined area at a time when the corresponding frame image is displayed. The notification unit causes display of the symbol in a first condition corresponding to the updating state when a currently displayed frame image is updated by a next frame image. The notification unit also causes display of the symbol in a second condition corresponding to the non-updating state when the currently displayed frame image is not updated by a next frame image.

Independent Claims 8, 22 and 35 as amended are method claims, independent Claims 15 and 31 as amended are apparatus claims, and independent Claims 29, 30 and 36 as amended are storage medium claims which are seen to generally correspond to independent Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 to 31, 35 and 36, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least features of display of a symbol in a first condition corresponding to an updating state when a currently displayed frame image is updated by a next frame image, and display of the symbol in a second condition corresponding to a non-updating state when the currently displayed frame image is not updated by a next frame image.

The Office Action, at page 4, acknowledges that Yonezawa does not disclose the foregoing claimed features. However, the Office Action cites to Aoki for this alleged disclosure.

As understood by Applicants, Aoki relates to a mode changing device for a camera that automatically switches to a playback mode when the camera is connected to an external apparatus. (column 4, lines 26 to 40 of Aoki). In playback mode, the starting and stopping of a playback operation is controlled by depressing play switch SWP, which causes display of either a fully illuminated PLAY icon corresponding to a playback operation in progress or a flashing PLAY icon corresponding to a stand-by condition. (column 25, lines 42 to 65 of Aoki).

As such, it is the depression of play switch SWP in Aoki which is seen to display different modes for a PLAY icon. This is different than the present invention, in which the display of a symbol corresponds to an updating state when a currently displayed frame image is updated by a next frame image, and corresponds to a non-updating state when the currently displayed frame image is not updated by a next frame image.

Accordingly, Aoki is not seen to disclose or suggest display of a symbol in a first condition corresponding to an updating state when a currently displayed frame image is updated by a next frame image, and display of the symbol in a second condition corresponding to a non-updating state when the currently displayed frame image is not updated by a next frame image. Furthermore, Aoki is not seen to suggest the attendant benefits provided by such display of a symbol.

In addition, Yamaashi has been reviewed and is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Yonezawa and Aoki.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 to 31, 35, and 36 are believed to be allowable over the applied references.


The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Turning to a formal matter, the Office Action required submission of a clean copy of the claims filed with the Amendment dated July 6, 2005. In this regard, the claims submitted with this Amendment incorporate the changes from the July 6, 2005 Amendment. Accordingly, an additional copy of the claims from the July 6, 2005 Amendment is not being submitted at this time. However, an additional copy of the July 6, 2005 Amendment can be provided to the Examiner upon further request.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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